

to be kept thereafter in gold coin or in bills on London and Berlin.¹ The circulation on December 31, 1882, was 96,968,310 lei, with a reserve of 23,838,000 lei. This reserve stood on December 31, 1892, at 53,160,703 lei in gold and 13,954,389 lei in foreign bills. The circulation at the close of 1906 had risen to 291,685,330 lei and the metallic reserve to 83,575,336 lei.³ The reaction of the crisis of 1907 in America forced circulation up to 319,742,490 lei. It became necessary to raise the "rate of discount by rapid stages to six, seven, and finally to eight per cent., but the reserve was kept intact at more than 100,000,000 lei, and a sum of more than 37,000,000 lei was put at the command of commerce.³

The National Bank of Bulgaria.

The bank-note circulation of Bulgaria is issued by the National Bank, which was founded on February 8, 1885, by the government, with a capital of 10,000,000 levs (\$2,000,000) in gold. The bank has the exclusive privilege of issuing notes, and they are received in public depositaries and in all other offices of the government. It is required to hold a cash reserve in gold equal to one-third the value of the notes in circulation and to redeem the notes on demand at the central office or at any of the branches. The governor of the bank is named by the Prince upon the nomination of the minister of finance and four administrators are appointed in the same way. The government is represented by two delegates, one a counsellor of the court of accounts and the other a member of the ministry of finance, who exercise official supervision over the operations of the bank.

Economic conditions in Bulgaria suffered severely from 1897 to 1900 by reason of a succession of bad crops. The scanty stock of gold in the country was so far depleted that the premium on exchange rose to seven and a half and briefly

**Vide* article on "The Circulation in Roumania," by Lascar I.,

Catargi, quoted in *Economiste Europeenne* September 30th and October

7, 1904, XXVI., 420 and 452.

² *Economiste Europeenne*, March 8, 1907, XXXI., 316.

**Moniteur des Intermarchés Matériels*, May 3, 1908, 1457.